position/stage of assigning of job and cost escalation involved since the Project was sanctioned by Government of India in favour of NLC in April, 1991 at a cost of Rs. 828.04 crores ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Barsingsar lignite mine (1.7 mty)-cum-power project (2X120 MW) in Bikaner district of Rajasthan was sanctioned by the Government of India in April, 1991 at a capital cost of Rs. 828.04 crores to be implemented by Neyveli Lignite Corporation. However, due to paucity of funds, it is not possible for NLC to implement this project. Rajasthan Government was initially keen that the project be implemented by NLC itself. However, in view of NLC's financial constraints, the State Government is now contemplating to take up this project in the State and,' or Joint/Private sectors.

(c) Whether the State Government has sought assistance from foreign agencies like KFW of Germany, etc. for this projet is not. known.

Loss in coal sector due to absenteeism

3618. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :—

(d) what is the loss of production due to absenteeism in the coal sector in the year 1992-93 ;

(e) what is the loss of revenue due to fall back wage for the same period ; and

(f) what are the reasons for the two opposite losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Production loss due to absenteeism in the year 1992-93 in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (C1L) was 29.38 lakh tonnes.

(a) The loss of revenue in CIL due to fall back wages for 1992-93 was Rs. 11.21 crores.

(b) Loss of production due to absenteeism is a phenomenon caused by regional/seasonal factors like harvesting, festivals, marriages etc. On the other hand, fall back Wages are given to miners/loaders and piece-rated workers when work could not be assigned to them due to unforeseen circumstances such as major break downs, proplonged power failures unavoidable mining interruptions, roof-falls, non-availability of working faces, change over from one Section/District to another etc.

Reduction of manpower in CIL andNCCL

3619. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1235 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 1993 and to sate :

(b) whether there has been steady reduction of manpower in the CIL in general and BCCL in particular during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details giving year-wise break up in each organisation ;

(d) whether the reduction is primarily due to elimination of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women from the rolls ;

(e) if so, the details giving percentages of them amongst the persons removed during the last three years ;

(f) whether any special prize was^ given to the CMD, BCCL for the elimination of weaker sections from the BCCL ; and

(f) if so, the justification the